

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Michael Kirshner-Community Liaison Director  
Office (615) 743-1623 Cell (615) 207-9048

### **Mental Health Cooperative Strengthens Focus on Addiction & Mental Illness**

NASHVILLE, Tennessee-The Mental Health Cooperative of Nashville has hired Steve Gemmill, Addiction Specialist, in an effort to continue to strengthen the agency's commitment to persons with serious mental illness and addiction. Gemmill is an Advance Practice Nurse and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselor who brings over 16 years of experience in effectively treating persons with mental illness and substance abuse challenges. He developed the first inpatient and outpatient programs, for this population, in the Nashville area at HCA's Parthenon Pavilion in 1990 and has provided consultation and medication management services to a number of well-respected treatment facilities including Cumberland Heights and the Psychiatric Hospital at Vanderbilt.

"We are honored to have someone with Steve's expertise and skill-set to further build on our mission of providing very high quality, evidence-based services to persons with serious and persistent mental illness who also have addiction issues," says Pam Womack, Chief Executive Officer for MHC. "We know that many of our consumers struggle with substance abuse and that it negatively affects their ability to be successful in the community so we are going to direct tremendous resources toward that end."

Gemmill will be providing intensive and ongoing training to all staff, facilitating focused therapy groups, honing outcome measures and providing advanced consultation to treatment teams surrounding specific consumers. He will join Alan Lynch, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, in further carving MHC's programming for those with mental health and substance abuse challenges, into a gold standard model of care.

The Mental Health Cooperative is a mental health agency that incorporates intensive community based case management, psychiatric clinic and 24-hour emergency services into an integrated, evidence-based system of care. The agency is located in Metro Center, with satellites in Gallatin and Dickson, and serves children, adults and families.

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**There *is* life after diagnosis!**